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BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

WM. E. BARKER

M.B., CH.B. (VICT.) & L.S.A. (LOND.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Borough of Clitheroe.

Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my (Forty-first) Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1942, and in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health this is again in a very abbreviated form.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servent,
WILLIAM E. BARKER.

(1).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

WM. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B., (VICT.), L.S.A. (LOND.).

PART TIME OFFICER.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

EDWARD COATES, A.R.SAN. I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JAMES BOLTON.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR.

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The BIRTH RATE for 1942 is 15.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 3.5 above that of 1941.

The STILL BIRTH RATE is 38 per 1,000 total (live & still) births, an increase of 11 per 1,000 on 1941.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

The DEATH RATE for 1942 is 12.8 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 1.1 per 1,000 below that of 1941.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year is 29 per 1,000 live births registered, a decrease of 20 per 1,000 upon the figure for 1941.

The DEATHS included 2 from Diphtheria; 1 from Acute Infective Encephalitis; 2 from Influenza; 6 from Pneumonia; 9 from Bronchitis; 1 from Tuberculosis, 19 from Cancer; 38 from Organic Heart Disease; and 10 from Nephritis.

A Notable point here is the remarkable diminution in the Deaths from Cancer during the year, viz., 19, as compared with 32 in 1941.

(2).

It is interesting to compare some of the fore-going figures with the corresponding statistics for the year 1902 when I was first appointed Medical Officer of Health.

In that year the birth rate was 22.2 per 1,000 of the population, and that was 4.1 per 1,000 below the average of the previous 10 years, the rate having gradually declined from 30.5 in 1892. It has thus actually halved in the last 50 years.

People are, however, now living longer on an average, and the death rate per 1,000 of the population has declined from 15.4 in 1902 to its present figure of 12.8.

More noteworthy, however, is the decline in Infant Mortality. In 1902, of every 1,000 children born, 125 failed to reach their first birthday, and even this number was below the average of the previous 10 years.

In the past year only 29 per 1,000 children coming into the world, failed to complete their first year of life.

STILL BIRTHS.

Less satisfactory, is the number of still births, viz seven, which occurred during 1942, giving a rate, as previously mentioned, of 38 per 1,000 births, a rather high figure, and an increase of 11 per 1,000 on the previous year.

These cases are carefully investigated by the Nurse. Two of the deaths were of twins, four others occurred in hospital or Nursing Home, two of the mothers suffering from severe albuminuria; one case was of congenital abnormality; three of the births were premature.

All the mothers had adequate nursing and medical assistance, and there is no evidence that war conditions were in any way responsible for the failure of these infants to survive their births.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Ninety-five cases of Notifiable Diseases occurred during the year, as compared with 283 in 1941, when 83 cases of Measles and 141 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. The figures for these two affections fell to 6 and 3 respectively in the past year, but there was an increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever, 49 cases being notified as against 16 in 1941.

Fortunately the outbreak was of a mild type, and no deaths resulted.

There were only 2 reports of Diphtheria during the year, as against 13 in 1941, but both of them proved fatal. Neither patient had been immunised.

Five hundred and eleven children were immunised against Diphtheria during 1942, and efforts have been made by posters, advertisements in the local press, and by talks in the schools and clinics to impress upon parents the great importance of protecting their children against this dangerous disease. The nurse has also visited all homes in the town where there were children under five years of age.

The results of these efforts have, on the whole, been satisfactory, and they are being continued, and it is estimated that not less than 70% of all children under 14 years of age are now immunised. Latterly, the younger children, from 1 to 5 years of age, the most important age groups for the purpose, have been coming up well, and we hope to improve on the present not unsatisfactory figures in 1943.

SCABIES.

The war, with the consequent evacuation of the inhabitants from the over-crowded areas of some of the large towns, spread this contagious ailment throughout the country, and Clitheroe did not escape.

The fact that it is not notifiable precludes the possibility of giving actual figures concerning it, but some indication of its incidence may be arrived at from the number of cases occurring amongst school children.

We had no cases in Clitheroe in 1939, but 8 were discovered in 1940, all of which had been cured at the School Clinic before the end of that year.

Sixty new cases were unearthed amongst the scholars during 1941, 33 of whom returned to school cured before the end of that year, leaving 27 still excluded.

Three evacuees, who were amongst the affected, did not return to Clitheroe from the Christmas Holidays, leaving 24 cases in the schools at the commencement of 1942, and 30 additional cases were added during the year, making 54 in all.

Fifty-one of these had been cured before the end of 1942, leaving only 3 still affected, and excluded from school, at that time, when the outbreak was definitely declining.

A few cases, where home conditions were not helpful, were removed to Waddow, but not a little credit is due to our School Nurse for these results.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

These remained substantially as in previous years.

LABORATORY WORK.

This shows no change on previous years.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.WATER SUPPLY.

This is adequate and of exceptional softness and purity.

During the past year one new spring was connected to our System. A new well was formed, and approximately 900 yards of pipes laid to the Meeting Chamber. At the down-stream end of this pipeline, a lime-dosing chamber was erected to counteract the plumbo-solvent action of the water. Such Chamber is designed so as to allow the water a period of at least 20 minutes contact with grey graded limestone with which the chamber is filled. Analysis of the treated water has shown a substantial reduction in the plumbo-solvent action, and the finished water is considered satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No change during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION, ETC.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse (excluding Salvage loads) during the year :-

1. House and Shop Refuse removed to Destructor	1,637 loads.
2. Offal from Public Abattoirs.	103 loads.
3. Fish & Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.	253 loads.
4. Nightsoil from Pail Closets.	49 loads.
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	2,042 loads.

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (1,637 loads) amounted to 2,620 tons 19 cwts. 0 qrs.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

Increased effort was made during the year in the recovery of waste materials so urgently required for war purposes. This extra work taxed to the full the Department's resources in man power and rolling stock, and resulted in the household collection of dustbins being, at times, definitely behind schedule. The average householder, I think, appreciated our difficulties and realised that salvage work must have priority in war time.

If the salvaging of waste materials is being undertaken efficiently by the householder, the dustbin, in these days, should be "a receptacle for dry ashes" only, and no nuisance, injurious or prejudicial to health, should arise therefrom, even if the collection period is somewhat prolonged.

Special Communal Bins, to the number of 110, were stationed for the collection of Waste Food, the contents being removed DAILY, and each bin returned to the Depot for cleansing and Sterilising every four days. This collection alone has meant the utilising of one lorry in the afternoon of every working day and also on Sunday mornings.

Thirty-two Salvage Stewards were enrolled during the year. The majority have shown themselves to be enthusiastic and have rendered valuable assistance, especially during the period of Special Drives.

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of, and the income therefrom during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1942 :-

	T.	C.	QRS.	LBS.	£.	S.	D.
Waste Paper (all grades)	141	18	0	0.	837.	9.	2.
Ferrous Metal.	13	7	0	14.	14.	8.	6.
Baled Destructor Tins.	50	1	1	0.	82.	18.	7.
Non-Ferrous Metal.			7	1	18.	6.	8.
Textiles.	4	0	1	8.	23.	2.	11½
Rope & String.			1	0	4.		2. 10.
Waste Rubber.	1	14	2	0.		17.	3.
Bottles & Jars (48 gross)	2	18	0	0.	7.	11.	6.
Household Bones.	1	10	1	9.	2.	18.	8½
Kitchen Waste.	87	10	2	0.	131.	5.	0.
	303	8	1	25.	£1,107.	2.	10.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Abattoir is still utilised as a Government Centre for the distribution of meat in the area covered by the Clitheroe Borough and the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, and the slaughtering of animals for food in this area is thus centralised.

The following shows the amount of Food condemned and removed from the Food Supply during the year :-

MEAT.

58 Beast Carcasses.	20,812 lbs.	138 Sheep Carcasses	4,088 lbs.
Carcase Parts.	1,161 lbs.	Carcase Parts.	267 lbs.

70 Sets of Offal.	2,953 lbs.	152 Sheep Heads & Plucks.	799 lbs.
Liver Trimmings.	4,418 lbs.	960 Sheep Livers.	1,221 lbs.
31 Lights & Melts.	234 lbs.	11 Calf Carcasses.	532 lbs.
9 Pig Carcasses.	654 lbs.	Carcase Parts.	15 lbs.
Carcase Parts.	26 lbs.	12 Calf Heads & Plucks.	114 lbs.
5 Pig Heads.	52 lbs.	Canned Meat.	162 lbs.
15 Pig Plucks.	97 lbs.	3 Turkeys.	15 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Potatoes.	2 cwts.	Fish.	5 stone.
Bacon.	16 lbs.	Butter.	28 lbs.
Cheese.	47½ lbs.	Jam.	3½ lbs.
Condensed Milk.	321 tins.	Canned Fruit.	35 tins.
Canned Fish.	26 tins.	Canned Vegetables.	24 tins.

LODGING HOUSES.

As in previous Reports.

BAKEHOUSES.

These remain substantially as in previous Reports. Periodic inspections have been made of these premises, and in one or two instances, the standard of cleanliness was not at all satisfactory. Warnings were given to the owners, and later inspections proved that the standard had been raised and maintained.

FACTORIES.

Several contraventions of the Health Provisions of the Factories Act were met with during the year. Following notices to the owners, the following works were carried out :-

Non-Power Factory. - (i) Complete re-decoration (oil paint) of walls and ceilings of all rooms.

Power Factories. - (i) Provision of artificial lighting to male and female conveniences.
(ii) Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire - internal and external escape staircases, etc. provided.

Two Certificates as to "Fire Escape" under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were granted during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

Frequent visits were paid to these premises during the year, and generally speaking, the standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

Much work yet remains to be done to bring some of these Farm premises and Dairies into line with modern requirements, and it must be realised that in the immediate post-war period, we shall be called upon to direct our energies to the improving of conditions in and around all milk producing Centres. Meanwhile, we must maintain the highest standard of cleanliness possible under existing circumstances.

SUMMARY OF VISITS, ETC.

The following is a summary of the visits, etc. made during the year by the Public Health Staff:-

House to House Inspections.	84
House to House Re-Inspections.	106
Other House Inspections.	158
Visits re Overcrowding.	5
Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses)	116
Visits to Infected Houses.	80
Slaughterhouse Visits.	485
Dairies & Cowsheds Inspections.	94
Visits to Milkshops.	8
Visits to Market Stalls.	76
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground)	12
Visits re Pig Keeping.	10
Visits re Complaints.	220
Visits re Work in Progress.	87
Miscellaneous Visits by Inspector.	436
Smoke Observations.	Nil.
Houses Disinfected.	42
Houses Disinfested.	1
Preliminary Notices Served.	56

HEALTH VISITOR.

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year	138
Secondary visits to Infants under 1 yr.	311
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years.	1,127
Visits to Expectant Mothers.	48
Visits re Stillbirths.	4
Visits re Children & Young Persons Act	---
Miscellaneous Visits.	114

The following is a list of the works carried out in the Abatement of Nuisances :-

Choked Drains opened and cleansed	23
Defective Drains repaired.	6
Defective Closets. repaired.	19
Defective Sinks or Waste Pipes. repaired or replaced.	14

(8).

Defective Eaves Gutters and Downspouts repaired.	9
Yard Surfaces repaired.	2
Defective Windows repaired.	26
Defective Chimney Stacks repaired.	4
Dilapidated House Walls and Ceilings repaired	12
Defective Roofs repaired.	10
Accumulations of Refuse removed.	74
Premises requiring Limewashing.	6

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total.....	Nil.
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme.....	Nil.

1. - INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	54
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	190
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	Nil.
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	26

2. - REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES. :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	21
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3. - ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR. :-

A - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.... Nil.

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.... Nil.

C - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil.

D - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made :..... Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

4. - HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year..... Nil.
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein..... Nil.
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein..... Nil.
- (b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year..... 1
- (c) (1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year..... 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.. 3

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There has been no change in housing conditions in the Borough during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR (CIVILIANS ONLY).

	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Admtd Hosp'l	De- ath.
Smallpox.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Encephalitis Lethargica.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Diphtheria.	2	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--
Scarlet Fever.	49	--	--	1	2	3	25	9	--	6	--	--	2	--	--
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	1	--	--
Measles.	6	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Whooping Cough.	3	--	--	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erysipelas.	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	2	1	1	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	5	5	--	6
Pneumonia.	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	--	--
Dysentry.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Puerperal Pyrexia.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	--	1
	95	3	1	5	4	5	29	12	--	16	8	9	3	7	9

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1942.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
All Causes - Certified.....	79	66	145.
Uncertified.....	..	..	..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever...	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	..	..	..
Diphtheria.....	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	..	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	..	..	..
Influenza.....	2	..	2
Measles.....	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis, etc.....	1	..	1
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries..	2	..	2
Cancer (all forms).....	9	10	19
Diabetes.....	1	1	2
Heart Disease.....	20	18	38
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	2	2	4
Bronchitis.....	4	5	9
Pneumonia.....	5	1	6
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	..	..	..
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	..	1
Diarrhoea....(under 2 years).....	..	..	..
Appendicitis.....	1	..	1
Nephritis.....	3	7	10
Puerperal Sepsis.....	..	..	..
Other Maternal Causes.....	..	..	..
Suicide.....	1	2	3
Road Traffic Accidents.....	..	..	..
Other Violent Causes.....	4	..	4
All other Causes.....	21	19	40
 TOTALS.....	79	66	145

